



Overcoming Poverty, Building Capacity

Michigan's AmeriCorps*VISTA

What is AmeriCorps*VISTA?

AmeriCorps*VISTA is a national service program designed specifically to fight poverty. VISTA (Volunteers in Service to America) was founded in 1965 and incorporated into the AmeriCorps network of programs in 1993. VISTA has been on the front lines in the fight against poverty in America for more than 40 years.

VISTA members commit to serve full-time for a year at a nonprofit organization or local government agency, working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, strengthen community groups, and much more. With passion, commitment, and hard work, they'll create or expand programs designed to bring individuals and communities out of poverty.

AmeriCorps*VISTA is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service – Michigan State Office.

232 AmeriCorps*VISTAs will serve with 44 projects in Michigan in 2011.

- Those VISTAs will serve **174 nonprofits** in Michigan. Key issues they will address include: ex-offender re-entry, youth aging out of foster care, disaster preparedness, and adult literacy.
- AmeriCorps*VISTAs in Michigan will spend more than **475,000 hours** in service this year.
- VISTAs in Michigan will recruit, place, and/or support more than **28,500 volunteers** in 2011.
- AmeriCorps*VISTAs in the state who successfully complete their term of service this year have the potential of earning more than **\$1 million** in education awards.

Financial Impact

\$3,311,640 in Federal Funds has been allotted to the Corporation for National and Community Service - Michigan State Office for 2010-2011 AmeriCorps*VISTA programs.

"Now more than ever Michigan needs service as we are in an economic crisis, VISTA is a crucial support in keeping what services are left in place and helping to meet the gaps left in school programming, food assistance and health care."

Peggy Roberts
Power of We Consortium



244 AmeriCorps*VISTAs in Michigan served with 44 projects in 2009-2010.

Their service made an impact across the state of Michigan, including in the following ways:

- VISTAs at the Poverty Reduction Initiative in Kalamazoo reached 1,000 community members last year in an effort to increase awareness of poverty issues. They also provided more than 60 services to more than 1,000 local homeless and low-income individuals through two Project Connect events.
- Members serving at the Center for Empowerment & Economic Development project in Detroit assisted more than 200 aspiring local business owners with business development resources and referrals.
- At the Port Huron Housing Commission, VISTAs supported the Dulhut Computer Lab by assisting with 4,120 lab uses for the purpose of job searches and homework.
- A VISTA serving with the Great Lakes Center for Youth Development in Marquette registered 147 new volunteers and 39 organizations through 1-800-Volunteer.org. This member also made 162 referrals to local volunteer opportunities.
- VISTAs serving statewide with Michigan Campus Compact generated campus involvement of 17,405 college students performing community service or service-learning, resulting in 71,975 hours of service.
- VISTAs with Life Services Systems in Ottawa, Kalamazoo, and Lenawee Counties planned and implemented events that engaged more than 11,000 parents in their children's learning.

"Becoming an AmeriCorps*VISTA has given me the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the unique challenges people face across the entire socio-economic spectrum. More than anything, my service has reaffirmed my belief that we have more in common as human beings than we are different, and that each of us possesses the tools to serve one another, thereby creating solutions to our common challenges."

Matthew Reaume
Michigan's
AmeriCorps*VISTA
Leader

Corporation for
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COMMUNITY
SERVICE** ★★ ★

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